

REMARKS:

INTRODUCTION

In the Office Action mailed May 1, 2006, the Examiner noted that claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10 were pending and rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 10. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 11 and 12 remain cancelled. Thus, in view of the forgoing, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 13 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended to the applicants representatives during the interview. Agreement with respect to the claims was reached. The Examiner stated that the proposed amended claims 1 and 6 that further claim a regeneration control to purge or release NOx from a NOx occlusion reduction catalyst overcome the prior art of record and appear allowable pending further search and consideration. The Examiner also stated that new claim 13 is also allowable over the prior art of record pending further search and consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action at page 2, item 3, rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 10 as being unpatentable over Pott (U.S. Pat. No. 6,164,064) (hereinafter Pott) in view of Hirota et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,233,925) (hereinafter Hirota). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 6 and 13

Presently amended claims 1, 6 and 13 recite *inter alia*:

wherein regeneration control is performed, to thereby
purge or release NOx from a NOx occlusion reduction type
catalyst.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments to claims 1 and 6 overcome the prior art of record for at least the reasons discussed during the interview, and places claims 1 and 6 in condition for allowance. That is, Pott fails to disclose "regeneration control is performed, to thereby purge or release NOx from a NOx occlusion reduction type catalyst". Instead, as mentioned in the Amendment filed August 1, 2006, Pott teaches the removal of sulfur from NOx reservoir catalysts, where sulfur inhibits the absorption of NOx by the reservoir catalysts. See Col. 1, lines 10-21. Further, Hirota fails to make up for the deficiencies of Pott.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection against the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim 13, which recites features somewhat similar to those of amended claims 1 and 6, is also respectfully submitted to overcome the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an allowance of claim 13 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

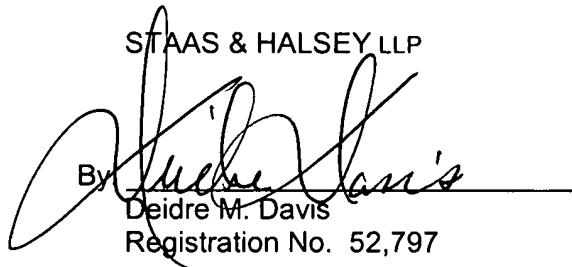
In accordance with the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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